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North Carolina Horror

Four Members of a Family Butchered and House Set on Fire—Several Negroes in Jail—Confession by One of the Prisoners.

Barber Junction N. C., July 14.—Special to News and Courier. One of the most horrible tragedies in the history of this county was committed near this station this morning between the hours of 1 and 2 o'clock.

An unknown person entered the house of Mr. Ike Lyerly, a well known farmer, while its occupants were asleep, killing Mr. Lyerly, his wife and little son, Johnnie, and wounding their infant baby, Alice. The two parents and two children were sleeping in the front room on the first floor, there being three elder daughters sleeping upstairs, who were unmolested, and were awakened by the smoke and flames from below, the criminal having set fire to the house.

The three elder girls descended the stairs to awake their father and mother. On reaching the lower room a most horrible and appalling scene, their father, mother and the children, still in their beds, all save the youngest, in cold death, their heads being crushed and faces badly disfigured.

Through courageous and heroic efforts the elder daughters, Mary and Addie, ages 18 and 16, respectively, managed to carry the dead bodies from the house and extinguished the flames, whereupon they ran to their nearest neighbor, Mr. W. P. Barber, and told the awful story of the tragedy.

THE CRIME IS CONFESSED.

Barber Junction, N. C., July 14.—At 8 P. M. the latest development in the Lyerly family assassination up to this hour, is the finding of the coroner's jury as follows:

"That Isaac Lyerly, his wife, Augusta, and little son, Johnnie, came to their deaths by blows from an axe or axes in the hands of Neise Graham, or Gillespie, his son, John Gillespie, Jack Dillingham and wife, George Erwin and Henry Lee."

All the above mentioned are negroes and have been lodged in the county jail at Salisbury.

Since the arrest of these negroes Gillespie's son has made a full confession that Gillespie, the father, and son, John Gillespie, killed Mr. Lyerly, his wife and the little boy, Johnnie and injured the little girl, who died this evening, and that the other named negroes were implicated in the commission of the tragedy.

He told a plain story as to how they entered the house at an early hour in the morning, carrying with them two axes to do the bloody work with, and

Dreyfus's Vindication.

Facts in Notable Case Recalled by Decision of Supreme Court of France.

Charlotte Observer: The Supreme Court of France has annulled the condemnation of Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, of the French army, completely vindicating him and entitling him to restoration in the army as though he had never been accused, with the rank of brigadier general. If Dreyfus is really innocent, as the highest court in France finds, he was a most grossly persecuted man and nothing the French government can now do will repay him for the suffering he has doubtless undergone. Dreyfus was first arrested on October 13, 1894, on the charge of treason in having furnished copies of certain documents in the Ministry of War to agents of a foreign government. The first trial began behind closed doors on December 19, 1894, and Dreyfus was convicted and sentenced to be publicly degraded and to spend the remainder of his life on Devil's Island, a barren rock off French Guinea. On January 5, 1895, he was publicly degraded in front of one of the largest military schools, his uniform stripped of every insignia of rank and his sword broken across the knee of a non-commissioned officer. On April 13 Dreyfus, under the eye of six guards, began life on Devil's Island. After remaining there four years he was taken back to France and given a public trial at Rennes, where he was found guilty "with extenuating circumstances," and a pardon was granted, but Dreyfus was not satisfied. Said he the day after he was freed: "The government of the republic has given me back my liberty. This is nothing to me without honor. Beginning to day, I shall unremittently strive for the reparation of the frightful judicial error of which I am still the victim." And now he has won his victory, which must indeed bring great joy to him and friends. The case has attracted world-wide attention, and sentiment has all along been strongly in favor of Dreyfus save in France.

—A special term of court has been ordered for the trial of the negroes in Charlotte jail charged with the murder of the Lyerlys, an account of which appears elsewhere.

after committing the deed, setting fire to the bed clothing, pouring kerosene oil on the bed clothing from a lamp and leaving the house to be burned with the dead parents and children, with the intention that the remaining three children, who were asleep upstairs, should be burned alive.

The prisoners were taken to Charlotte Saturday night for safe keeping.

Children's Day in Kershaw Baptist Church--Program of the Occasion.

Reported for The News.

There were Children's Day exercises at the Baptist church July 15th. The programme was as follows:

Song—by school.
Opening hymn—(tune, America.)

Responsive reading.
Paraphrase—led by pastor.
Song—by primary class, Wonderful Word of life.

English Version of the Bible.
Translations of the Psalter—by Frank Powers.

Wycliffe translation, New Testament—by Fred Falkenberry.

Tyndale's New Testament—by Callie Falkenberry.

Mills Coverdales translated on the Bible—by Mamie Whitley.

The Geneva—by Ethel Gardner.

The authorized version—by Eula Ingram.

The New Testament—by Lula Gregory.

Singing by school.

Three recitations:
The incomparable Treas—by Lois Gregory.

What the fool hath said—by Clara Croxton.

How God hath spoken—by Lilie Powers.

A song selected by Superintendent

Recitation:
Give praise for Jesus—by Pauline Edgeworth.

Within the solemn temple—by May Edgeworth.

'Tis Children's Day—by Mary Ingram.

The making of a rose—by Wilien Croxton.

Song—by a quartette of young women, (tune, Swanee River)

Recitations: How to save the World—by four children: Robbie Durham, Estelle Gregory, Archie Blackmon and Eva Copeland.

Six facts for six Boys:
The Books of the Bible—by Pressly Whitley.

The Language—by Lee Falkenberry.

The Eighty Eighth meeting—Paul Jones.

The Book Ever Printed—Estelle Gregory.

The first in America—by Mary Blackmon.

A short sermon—by James Bozman.

The children did well and the success of the occasion is due to those who had charge of the children, who were Mrs. B. A. Scruggs, Mrs. Dr. Brasington, and Miss Clara Croxton. The organist for the day was Mrs. Brasington. Subscriber.

Kershaw, July 16.

—Prof. W. A. Dunn, of the Jacksonham section, who has been principal of Clarkton Institute at Clarkton, N. C., for two years, spent a few days of last week here at Mrs. M. J. McCain's. He has recently been elected to the principalship of a high school at Selma, Ala., and will leave this week for that place.—Waxhaw Enterprise.

Lancaster County Wins.

In the Morrison Damage Suit the Supreme Court Reverses Order of Judge Gage Transferring Case to York for Trial.

From Columbia Record:

By an opinion filed this morning, the supreme court placed the famous Morrison lynching case, in which the heirs of the man lynched sued Lancaster county for \$50,000 damages, just where it was last fall. It will now either be dropped or will come up in due course for trial before the Lancaster court of common pleas.

Upon representation of plaintiffs that they could not secure a fair trial of their cause in Lancaster county, Judge Gage granted a change of venue to York county, whereupon the defendant county, through its counsel, Mr. W. C. Hough and Mr. Ernest Moore, appealed. After considering the papers and arguments in the case, the supreme court has held that in granting the change of venue Judge Gage exceeded his power. His order, therefore, is reversed.

Under the code of civil procedure there are just three cases in which the place of trial may be changed:

When the county designated for that purpose in the complaint is not the proper county; when there is reason to believe that an impartial trial cannot be had therein, and when the convenience of witnesses and the ends of justice would be promoted by the change.

Judge Gage based his order solely on his belief that the "ends of justice would be promoted by the change."

The supreme court holds that the conjunction "and" here may not be construed as it were "or," and since it was not made to appear that the convenience of witnesses would be promoted, the existence of the second reason is not sufficient reason for a change of venue.

The opinion in the case was written by Mr. Justice Jones, Mr. Justice Gary dissenting. The attorney for the plaintiffs is Mr. W. H. Newbold, while County Attorney W. C. Hough and Mr. Ernest Moore represent the defendant county. The title of the case is: W. T. Castles, as administrator, vs. Lancaster County.

Vacation for R. F. D. Carriers.

Congressman Wyatt Aiken writes the daily papers as follows: Having had inquiries from R. F. D. carriers in different parts of the state as to leave of absence with pay I will state for the information of those interested that carriers will be allowed 15 days leave with pay after they have served twelve months, effective July first instant.

Kills Two Men.

Desperate Tennessean and His Desperate Father.

Knoxville, Tenn, July 15.—John McPherson, aged 24, is a fugitive from justice with two posesses pursuing him, charged with the murder of Grant Smith, a former merchant of this city, and the fatal wounding of Deputy Sheriff Wm. Walmer, who attempted to arrest him.

McPherson shot and killed Smith in the house of Nettie Hall, apparently without provocation. McPherson was accompanied by his father, Dr. Buck McPherson, at the time, and the two left the city in a buggy, going towards the mountains.

Three miles out their buggy collided with one driven by Dr. Joseph Waddell, breaking a shaft, which so enraged young McPherson that he pulled the physician from the buggy and beat him seriously. Waddell went to Sheriff Walmer's home and the two pursued the McPhersons. One mile further out they met Walmer demanded the surrender of young McPherson and was shot through the right lung, and as a result Walmer will die.

Young McPherson continued into the mountains, while his father returned here and surrendered and is now in jail. Rewards have been offered for young McPherson's arrest, and posesses are pursuing him.

Dr. McPherson shot and killed a fellow physician some eight years ago and served five years of a seven years' sentence before he was pardoned.

Mr. Pollock Operated On.

Condition of Prominent Chesterfield Man Believed to be Improved.

Columbia, July 15.—Special to News and Courier: Mr. W. F. Pollock was operated on to-day by Dr. Guerry for appendicitis at the Columbia Hospital. His condition has been critical for several days, but was better to-day. He stood the operation very well and unless there should be some complication, his physicians are very hopeful of the favorable result of the operation. Owing to the condition of the appendix an operation was not deemed safe until to-day. Mr. Pollock stood the operation finely, and everyone is to-night encouraged.

Schedule of Kershaw Campaign.

The following appointments have been made for the county candidates in Kershaw:

Beaver Dam, August 7th.
Blaney, August 8th.
Bethune, August 21st.
Kirkley's Mill, August 22nd.
Westville, August 23rd.
Camden, August 25th.